

Claims

1. Sampler for taking a sample from a body cavity, such as cervical samples, comprising a tubular means to be introduced in said cavity, the introduction end of which is curved to define a central sampling opening, storage means connected to said tubular means and vacuum means connected to said storage means and/or tubular means, said tubular means comprising a rigid tube having a diameter of at least 1 cm, and only at the curved introduction end a number of sampling openings is provided having a diameter of less than 5 mm.
2. Sampler according to claim 1, comprising liquid containing means and pump means (44) to expel liquid from said liquid containing means to the introduction end of said tube.
3. Sampler according to claim 1, comprising a further opening for expelling said liquid adjacent to said sample opening.
4. Sampler according to claim 1 in combination with claim 3, wherein said vacuum means comprise said pump means.
5. Sampler according to claim 1 in combination with claim 3, wherein said storage comprise said liquid containing means.
6. Sampler according to claim 1, wherein said liquid containing means have a volume of less than 10 cc.
7. Sampler according to claim 1, wherein said vacuum means comprise a plunger-cylinder.
8. Sampler according to claim 7, wherein said tube comprises said cylinder.
9. Sampler according to claim 1 comprising sealing means for said openings.
10. Sampler according to claim 1, wherein said vacuum means comprise a plunger in said tubular means, wherein abutment means are provided to define relative movement of said plunger and tubular means.
11. Sampler according to claim 10 comprising biasing means for said plunger.
12. Sampler assembly comprising a sampler for taking a sample from a body cavity, such as cervical samples, comprising a tubular means to be introduced in said cavity, the introduction end of which is curved to define a central sampling opening, storage means connected to said tubular means and vacuum means connected to said storage means and/or tubular means, said tubular means comprising a rigid tube having

a diameter of at least 1 cm, and only at the curved introduction end a number of sampling openings is provided having a diameter of less than 5 mm comprising liquid containing means and pump means to expel liquid from said liquid containing means to the introduction end of said tube, wherein said liquid containing means is filled with a flushing solution.

13. Sampler assembly according to claim 12, wherein said flushing solution comprises a physiological saline.

14. Kit comprising the sampler according to one of the preceding claims and a closable container for containing said sample, said container being separate from said sampler.

15. Method for taking a sample from a body cavity, such as cervical samples, comprising introduction of a sampler tube into the entrance of said cavity, moving the tube in said cavity up to contact with the blind end of the cavity and taking a sample by suctioning material at the end of said sampler tube through an opening thereof, wherein after inserting said sampler tube and before taking a sample a flushing solution is expelled from said sampler tube into said body cavity.

16. Method according to claim 15, wherein said flushing solution is expelled from a chamber inside said tube and said sample is introduced in said chamber.

17. Method according to claim 15, wherein said flushing solution comprises a physiological saline solution.

18. Method according to claim 15, wherein after sampling a container is provided and the contents of the sampling tube is transferred to said container which is subsequently closed and shipped.

19. Method according to claim 18, wherein said container is provided with a preserving agent.